

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7515

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BQG, WB

SUBJECT: COMPLAINTS ABOUT ARRANGEMENT OF FLAGS AT WORLD SWIMMING
CHAMPIONSHIP SURFACE IN PRESS

REF: (A) USBERLIN 1896, (B) USBERLIN 1911

SUMMARY: RELATIVELY ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF SOVIET, CZECH AND
HUNGARIAN COMPLAINTS ABOUT ARRANGEMENT OF FLAGS AT WORLD
SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP IN WEST BERLIN SURFACED IN MOST BERLIN
PAPERS ON MORNING OF OPENING DAY OF COMPETITION. IN ADDITION GDR
SWIMMING ORGANIZATION PROTESTED TO ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE THAT
ADVERTISEMENT IN OFFICIAL PROGRAM PAID FOR BY BERLIN CDU WAS
UNSPORTSMANLIKE AND AGITATED AGAINST SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.
COMPETITION BEGAN ON SCHEDULE, WITH FLAGS IN PLACE AND
WITHOUT ANY DIFFICULTIES. END SUMMARY.

1. THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE ARRANGEMENT OF FLAGS AT THE WORLD

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SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP EMERGED PUBLICLY ON OPENING DAY OF
COMPETITION, AUGUST 18. BERLINER MORGENPOST, SPANDAUER VOLKSBLATT,
AND FAZ REPORTED IN DETAIL ON THE SOVIET, CZECH AND HUNGARIAN
PROTESTS AND THREATS TO PREVENT FUTURE SPORTING EVENTS IN THE
CITY AND PARTICIPATION OF WEST BERLIN COMPETITORS IN FRG TEAMS
IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS (REFTELS). THE PAPERS ALSO REPORTED
THAT ALL CONCERNED POLITICIANS AND SPORT OFFICIALS HAD ATTEMPTED

TO SUPPRESS MENTION OF THE CONTROVERSY IN ORDER NOT TO MAR THE COMPETITIONS, AND IN THE HOPE THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN THE DISPUTE. THESE EFFORTS WERE THWARTED, HOWEVER, BY AN ADVERTISEMENT OF BERLIN'S CDU IN THE PROGRAM COVERING THE SPORTING EVENTS, IN WHICH THE CDU APPEALED TO ALL INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS "TO COUNTERACT BY SUITABLE COUNTER MEASURES" THE INCREASING NUMBER OF BOYCOTTS OF "THE SPORTS CITY BERLIN" BY COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

2. THE CDU APPEAL MET WITH CRITICISM NOT ONLY BY GDR SPORTS OFFICIALS BUT BY THE DGB BERLIN AND THE ORGANIZATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD SWIMMING COMPETITION AS WELL. THE PRESIDENT OF THE GDR SWIMMING FEDERATION, PROFESSOR DR. ZOROWKA, ADDRESSED A PROTEST NOTE TO THE PRESIDENT OF FINA, J. OSTOS, AND TO THE ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD SWIMMING COMPETITION, COMPLAINING THAT THE ACTION OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE THIRD SWIMMING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 1978 IN BERLIN (WEST) "HAD PERMITTED ANTI-SPORT POLITICAL CIRCLES TO AGITATE AGAINST SOVIALIST COUNTRIES AND TO SPREAD INCORRECT NOMENCLATURE IN THE OFFICIAL PROGRAM OF THE SWIMMING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP". THE GDR SWIMMING FEDERATIONS PROTEST ALSO CHARGED THE ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE WITH FAILING TO FULFILL ITS DUTIES AND TASKS BY PERMITTING ACTIVITIES WHICH WERE "CONTRARY TO THE OLYMPIC SPIRIT AND THE CUSTOMS OF PEACEFUL SPORTING EVENTS" AND WHICH THREATENED "TO ENDANGER THE ORDERLY COURSE OF THE PRESENT COMPETITION".

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3. THE GERMAN SWIMMING FEDERATION OF THE GDR CALLED ON THE MEET ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE TO DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM THE CDU STATEMENT AND TO PREVENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE OFFICIAL PROGRAM IN ITS PRESENT FORM. THE FINA OFFICE WAS ASKED BY THE GDR TO CONDEMN THE ACTION OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP ON THIS ISSUE, AND "TO GUARANTEE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE CONFORM TO THE RULES AND STATUTES OF FINA".

4. THE SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP OPENED ON SCHEDULE WITH ALL FLAGS IN PLACE AS PROPOSED AND WITHOUT ANY DIFFICULTIES. NELSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, ATHLETIC PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USBERL01967
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780338-0604
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780846/aaaabmdn.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1144e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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